

159-6.3

DD/I

Ex.Dir/DCI

Ref your A-244

This project has evolved considerably since its inception and the Dept. has undertaken to produce a coordinated working paper for the Standing Group. The attached comments, which have been coordinated within the Agency, have been forwarded to the Dept. We have been informally assured they will adjust the draft. It therefore appears that action has been completed, at least until--and if--the Standing Group--considers the paper.

RJSmith

AD/CI

20 Jun 63

20 June 1963

MEMORANDUM FOR: Mr. John H. Plank
Director for Research and Analysis
for American Republics
Department of State

SUBJECT : Comments on Department of State Paper:
"A Cuban Balance Sheet--Batista and
Castro"

1. The following represents the views of both DD/I
and DD/P, CIA.

a. We find your memorandum accurately reflects the contrast between Castro's promises and his performance. Additionally, the paper effectively points out a basic factor in Castro's rise to power: that the pre-Castro Cuban political, economic, and social structure was extremely distorted and that Castro's own program originally gathered strength as an eloquent expression of widespread public dissatisfaction with the then existing situation.

b. In addition to the suggestions on minor details already communicated to you, we believe that the chart that makes up Annex I should be rather drastically changed. Also, the section on organized labor's reaction to the Castro regime might usefully be expanded slightly to indicate that urban workers are a potentially important source of anti-Castro resistance and that a few resistance leaders have already emerged from this group.


c. Concerning the chart that comprises Annex 1, we have strong reservations. The chart is oversimplified and misleading in its effort to contrast in tabular form Cuban progress toward certain goals under Batista and Castro. Only four one word categories--"none," "little," "some," and "much"--are employed to evaluate Cuban progress in each of 25 general fields. There is no word to describe actual retrogression which, in our view, is applicable to some fields--for instance, in progress toward the achievement of civil liberties under Castro.

d. It seems worth emphasizing to a greater extent that some of the basic, originally-stated economic goals of the Castro regime have been completely reversed. Castro originally stated that a concerted effort would be made to reduce Cuba's dependence on sugar through a program of agricultural diversification and industrialization. Now, particularly since Castro's return from the USSR, it appears that Cuba has been assigned a role in the Soviet-bloc "division of labor" as a supplier of raw materials, specifically of sugar, and that sugar is, if anything, a more basic element in Cuba's economy than it was before Castro. Little is heard in Cuba now of the grandiose industrial projects that were to be built with Soviet assistance. Reducing dependence on a single major export crop had been a Cuban objective for many years, as it continues to be in many other Latin American countries.



e. It is also worth emphasizing that while Castro has fulfilled--with a vengeance--his promise to lessen Cuba's economic and political dependence on the United States, he has in so doing made Cuba even more dependent on the USSR.

f. Finally, we note for the record that the "balance sheet" does not address the third requirement originally laid down in the National Security Council Standing Group Record of Actions (4/63, May 7) that is: "Actions We Would Be Prepared to Take to Help in the Reconstruction of Cuba".

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